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**Board Retreat
The John E. Fetzer Institute & Memorial Trust
January 25-27, 2002**

Background materials for joint board retreat, January 25, 2002

- Statement of purpose of each represented organization
- John E. Fetzer excerpts related to purpose
- Bruce Fetzer memorandum on enduring assumptions

Statement of purpose from each organization

Institute

Purpose: To reveal the wholeness of reality, freedom of spirit, and unconditional love.

Mission: To serve the transformation of our culture by fostering the integration of the inner life of mind and spirit with the outer life of action in the world.

Memorial Trust

To enhance the spirit and purposes of the beneficiaries as a community of freedom.

To articulate, share and promote the Fetzer vision. To work within the Fetzer Community to develop processes, values and capacities to foster the continual renewal and discernment of that vision.

To design, develop and carry out all necessary activities to ensure the fulfillment of these purposes.

To support each other in our personal and professional development in order to maintain our community of freedom.

Inner Light Ministries

The mission of Inner Light Ministries (ILM) is to assist people with the physical, emotional, mental, unconscious, or spiritual aspects of their lives. The assistance ILM offers is twofold. First, ILM provides counseling, teachings and activities, in order to support people in understanding the events of their lives from a spiritual perspective: through the understanding and the action of choice and responsibility, a person begins to comprehend destiny (karma) and freedom of choice in his or her life. Secondly, ILM provides teachings and activities regarding prayer and meditation, in order to facilitate people in learning to live in the moment in their freedom and loving.

Overarching purpose statement (GilChrist meeting, December 2000)

To awaken into and serve Spirit for the transformation of self and society

John E. Fetzer excerpts related to purpose

The following excerpts are intended to provide a *brief* representative sample of direct writings of John Fetzer as he addressed the purpose of the Institute. While there are hundreds of pages of material that address the topic of what to do and how to individually grow spiritually, *I specifically selected excerpts that describe how to go about clarifying purpose*. The material within quotes is verbatim from Mr. Fetzer's writings. This background is intended to provide context for our discussion about the immutable sacred founding principles of the Institute.

Founders Statement: September 29, 1989

"The John E Fetzer Foundation supports and provides research, education and service designed to discover and enhance the integral relationships of the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of experience which foster human growth, action, and responsible improvement of the human condition". P1

"...For in order to have the perfect balance, we must have the perfect awareness. We must have the understanding of body, mind and spirit and we must have balance of the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual in order that we might fully find the true spiritual expression leading to complete healing. Otherwise, we will come from places of limitation". P2

"I am most thankful that we have a board of trustees and the nucleus of a staff that is willing to move forward on this agenda by sharing in the intuitive process". P8

"All of our research, whatever it be, in house or out, should, in the long term, basically open the door into the investigation of biofield energy as applied to the mechanism of the total organism. I have said this many times before and I am saying it again, that this must be understood and refined as our core program". P9

"Here lies navigation in uncharted seas. I am convinced that inspired thought and direction are available to one, who dares to put himself in touch with the wisdom available from higher sources. I believe there are many willing listeners, including an Edison or an Einstein, hidden from normal view, awaiting to be brought into manifestation". P10

"...I have long held the view, that energy scientific research, that is not accompanied by spirit is suspect". P12

"I am sure that as you listen, you will hear the ring of truth, first and foremost, trying to create a community of freedom, within the Foundation, which is based upon freedom of consciousness, freedom of the individual, freedom of movement, freedom of thought, freedom of development and freedom of expression, which will allow the Foundation, to succeed in its mission to find balance, within and without, in the educational process. It is up to the collective group of trustees and staff to begin to understand that it must help develop that process. In the years past with the development of this nation, it wasn't one individual, it was the collective group, sitting and coming to agreement, that created the beginning of this great country. So new, the Foundation through the group, must come together and make a settlement within themselves, as to a sense of participation, in the pursuit of this agenda". P13

“Over a period of time, if a greater liberation, to find balance is to manifest upon this planet, this freedom must first manifest. The liberation on the individual level only manifests when one cries out for freedom. Free me of these bonds, of these chains. Free me of these pains, these anguishes, free me and bring me into that place of loving. When one calls out in such a way, the consciousness of liberation is stirred within, as well as without, and liberation becomes reality. This is how the liberating action begins, to free one of the downward turn in a spiral of consciousness, and brings one up into the higher focus, back into your higher self. It is here you will find the answers to the final definition of the Foundation’s purpose, in accordance with the agenda we have put in place.

I believe that there is a certain consciousness of synthesis, that brings forth a light, that some refer to as the “avatar symmetry”, that is here, ready to assist all who are connected with the Foundation to delineate its mission. Remember, whatever the final verdict turns out to be, its summary will be “unconditional love”. That is our avatar of the future, because love is the unifying energy field, that mobilizes the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual resources in the caring and sharing with one another.”P14

The Mystical Christ
by Christo



Opening Remarks to Board of Trustees by JEF March 3, 1989

“I constantly draw on the energy of the Father for guidance. It had been my hope that the Foundation would also and tenaciously so, ask the Father for guidance. We have a very serious mission to do in this world. In my view it’s a mission ordained of God. Therefore, all of us, have to seriously consider what our particular parts are in this kind of arena.” P1

“The Foundation was established to pursue a health program designed to discover the integral relationships of the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of humankind; to enhance partnerships in resources, alliances in global networking, and educational programs; and basically to open the door to research into bio-field medicine which investigates the energetic mechanisms of the total organism. (My intent here was to make laboratory research a top priority.)” p3

Selected readings from John Fetzer's bookshelf:

A Course in Miracles – the entire course was frequently studied

Chapter 5. I. "The Invitation to the Holy Spirit" paragraphs 2 and 3.

"Let us start our process of reawakening with just a few simple concepts: Thoughts increase by being given away; The more who believe in them the stronger they become; Everything is an idea; How, then, can giving and losing be associated? This is the invitation to the Holy Spirit. I have said already that I can reach up and bring the Holy Spirit down to you, but I can bring Him to you only at your own invitation. The Holy Spirit is in your right mind, as He was in mine. The Bible says, "May the mind be in you that was also in Christ Jesus," and uses this as a blessing. It is the blessing of miracle-mindedness. It asks that you may think as I thought, joining with me in Christ thinking."

The Aquarian Gospel of Jesus the Christ – selected because its source is thought to be from the Akashic Records. Chapter 68 verse 13 (Jesus addresses people of Bethany)

"Look not upon the flesh; it is not king. Look to the Christ within, who shall be formed in every one of you, as he is formed in me. When you have purified your hearts by faith, the king will enter in, and you will see his face."

Holy Bible – cornerstone of his upbringing

1 Corinthians 12:27 New International Version (Paul addressing the church of Corinth)

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts.

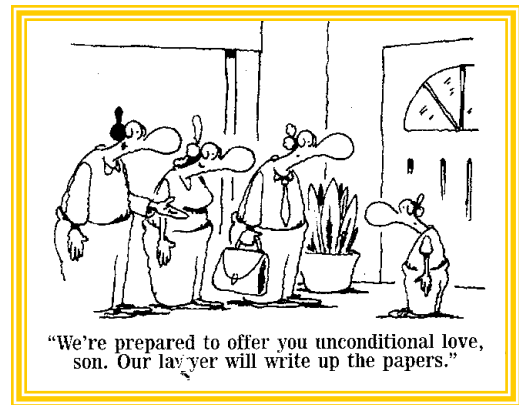


Symbol of the Tree of Life from the Kabbalah

Impressions about enduring assumptions

Bruce Fetzer (draft January 9, 2002)

The task of identifying the founder's underlying intent for creating the John E. Fetzer Institute could variously be described as identifying the *sacred* immutable values, founding principles, underlying purpose, in short our *enduring assumptions*. While I gladly respond to the request to do this, I welcome the opportunity for the enduring assumptions to be articulated by our entire group.



I would like to acknowledge the good work that has been accomplished so far. We have a purpose and mission statement, together with a book of shared values. However, our statements are so inclusive as to accept almost anything. I believe that our purpose statement needs to be augmented by a statement of beliefs to identify its sacred aspects. Further, I suggest creating processes to preserve a sacred intent. John Fetzer's own writings even demonstrated the need for him to refine and focus his intent. I pray that in humility and awe we will coalesce around the sacred aspects of the Institute's founding purpose.

How should we engage this process in consonance with our values? How do we include all voices (those that knew Mr. Fetzer as well as our own inner/outer)? *How do we know when our result is authentic?* The utility of any statement, then, should be judged by standards such as:

Criteria for what constitutes an enduring assumption

- 1) Clearly defines the Institute's sacred purpose
- 2) Concise and limited to two or three of the most important concepts (not a long list)
- 3) Calls out to us from our highest self (soul)
- 4) Does not depend on interpretation
- 5) Transmittable to successive trustees
- 6) Does not depend on any special relationship to John E. Fetzer to understand them
- 7) Not likely to change (as durable as the overall purpose)
- 8) Would need to be endorsed by trustees and senior executives

My own process of journaling and reflection produced a beginning draft of enduring assumptions. Perhaps these stimulate a response or insight in you. May I suggest that we each journal about this process and bring a statement of the one MOST enduring assumption about the John E. Fetzer Institute's sacred purpose.

ENDURING ASSUMPTIONS

- 1) We must encourage individual spiritual growth.
- 2) We must understand, articulate and model our organizational purpose.
- 3) We must acknowledge and invoke sacred guidance.
- 4) Love is both a practice and a *place* (destination).